

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 SSC-01 CPR-01 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 01164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CLAUDE LEBEL,
NEW FRANCH AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND

1. CLAUDE LEBEL, WHO HOLDS THE RANK OF MINISTER
PLENIPOTENTIARY IN THE FRANCH FOREIGN SERVICE, HAS
RECENTLY BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND.
PUBLISHED DATA STATES THAT LEBEL WAS BORN IN 1914 IN
PARIS AND DID STUDIES IN LAW, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS,
OBTAINING A MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW, A DIPLOMA OF
HIGHER STUDIES IN PUBLIC LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY,
AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE FREE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.

2. HE BEGAN HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER AS AN ATTACHE IN
BRUSSELS (1938-1939), FOLLOWED BY SECOND SECRETARY IN
MADRID (1940-1941). HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER WAS
INTERRUPTED BY MILITARY SERVICE, UNTIL HE RESIGNED HIS
VICHY COMMISSION IN 1942 TO WORK EVENTUALLY FOR
DE GAULLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN
ALGIERS (1943-1944). SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED
BUREAU CHIEF AT THE QUAI FOR TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS
(1945-1947), SECOND COUNSELOR (1947-1949), AND THEN
FIRST SECRETARY (1949-1950) IN ATHENS, SECOND
COUNSELOR AND THEN FIRST COUNSELOR IN LONDON (1950-
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1955), DESK OFFICER AT THE QUAI FOR CAMBODIAN,

LAOTIAN AND VIETNAM AFFAIRS (1956-1957), OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL (1957-1959), MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON (1959-1962), DIRECTOR OF PRESS AND INFORMATION AT THE QUAI (1962--1966, DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS (1966-1969), AND AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO (1970-1973). SINCE 1973, LEBEL HAS BEEN ON ASSIGNMENT AT THE QUAI WHERE HE HAS UNDERTAKEN SPECIAL MISSIONS INCLUDING LEADING THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME IN NOVEMBER 1974.

3. LEBEL HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY. HE SPEAKS PERFECT ENGLISH AND HAS IMPRESSED EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH HIM AS AN INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, AND COMPETENT DIPLOMAT WHOSE GENERAL VIEWS ARE SOUND.

4. LEBEL IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS01164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760014-0335
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760158/aaaabzmi.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CLAUDE LEBEL, NEW FRANCH AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND
TAGS: PDIP, FR, (LEBEL, CLAUDE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006